



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE SPECIAL  
MEETING OF THE WOMEN AND GIRLS INITIATIVE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**500 WEST TEMPLE STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

**Monday, June 22, 2020**

**1:00 PM**

Roll Call and Review of Meeting Logistics (20-3172)

**Chair Sharon Shelton called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. Nicole Bryant, Chief Executive Office Analyst, called the roll. Among those present were Women and Girls Initiative (WGI) staff: Abbe Land, Executive Director and Nicole Bryant. Also, in attendance were Imelda Padilla, Community Engagement and Outreach Consultant, Jackie Filla, Ph.D., WGI Research Consultant, along with Marissa Ayala, Sheila Kuehl Policy Fellowship and Rebecca Ezersky, Administrative Intern.**

**Present:** Chair Sharon Shelton, Vice Chair Wendy Greuel, Kafi Blumenfield, Araceli Campos, Anita DeFrantz, Perla Hernandez, Chris Hershey, Alice S. Petrossian, Dr. Carmen Schaye, Kathy Spillar, Bea Stotzer, Jane Templin and Jennifer Quan

**Absent:** Sandra Mendoza and Angela Underwood-Jacobs

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER**

**1. Approval of Minutes of June 1, 2020 (20-3173)**

**On motion of Member Jane Templin, seconded by Vice Chair Wendy Greuel, unanimously carried by the following vote, the Women and Girls Initiative Governing Council (WGI) approved the meeting minutes from**

**Ayes:** 13 - Chair Sharon Shelton, Vice Chair Wendy Greuel, Kafi Blumenfield, Araceli Campos, Anita DeFrantz, Perla Hernandez, Chris Hershey, Alice S. Petrossian, Dr. Carmen Schaye, Kathy Spillar, Bea Stotzer, Jane Templin and Jennifer Quan

**Absent:** 2 - Sandra Mendoza and Angela Underwood-Jacobs

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

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## **II. REPORTS, UPDATES, AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

### **2. Chair's Report - Sharon Shelton**

- I. Chair & Vice Chair elections July 27, 2020
- II. County Budget Update (20-3174)

**Chair Sharon Shelton stated it has been an honor to serve the WGI. As the WGI, prepares for July 2020 election, she intends to continue to support the WGI wherever needed. As the WGI talks about the needs of women and girls in Los Angeles County (LAC); Chair Shelton stated that they should question if they can do more. Also, the WGI should ask has questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) and the racial justice movement and its specific impacts on women and girls of color. The WGI ad hoc committees should operate collectively, collaboratively and intentionally with these questions for the months to come as a support to the remarkable staff and consultants.**

**Vice Chair Greuel thanked Chair Shelton and Executive Director Land for their excellent leadership and making the WGI list of priorities more important now as we talk about childcare, foster care and domestic violence especially during COVID-19 and the social unrest.**

### **3. Discussion on WGI Priorities and Recommendations with Monica Banken, Family and Children's Deputy, 5th District. (20-3175)**

**Monica Banken, Family and Children's Deputy, an advisor to Chair Supervisor Kathryn Barger of the 5th Supervisorial District, who also assists with workforce and economic development within Los Angeles County. Stated initially, as Chair of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Barger's intent was to focus on collaboratively developing youth programs however, the COVID-19 onset and social unrest due George Floyd's death changed the focus. Ms. Banken reported on the statistics that public health is collecting about COVID-19, the rate of unemployment, potential impact of the expiration of unemployment benefits and that almost all the calls coming into Los Angeles County 211 are COVID-19 related.**

**Ms. Banken reported Los Angeles County being one of the largest employer with over 100,000 employees; many who will continue to work at home, may allow for the release of parking spaces and opportunities to lease empty facilities. At the next Board of Supervisor meeting, consideration will be taken to possibly hold onsite childcare for employees.**

**Ms. Banken responded to questions that were posed by Commission**

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**Members, Chair Shelton, Member Hernandez, Member Templin, and member of the public, Fran Sereseres, about challenges for childcare agencies to adhere to rules to decrease the spread of COVID 19, impact of providing childcare and care for elderly parents or family members having chronic illnesses as women go back to work. Discussion took place about long term mental health and physical health impacts, could Los Angeles County create a space for people to share opportunities and solutions when returning to work, and impact of COVID 19 on youth in foster care as well as reporting of child abuse.**

**Ms. Banken stated her gratitude and thanked the WGI for their great work. It is getting tougher for everyone and it's great to know that the WGI continues to thrive during these circumstances. Chair Shelton thanked Ms. Banken for her most informative updates.**

**By Common Consent, there being no objection, the WGI received and filed the reports.**

- 4. Discussion on Domestic Violence Promising Practices and Lessons Learned During COVID-19 with Eve F. Sheedy, Esq., Executive Director, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health's Domestic Violence Council and Office of the Domestic Violence Council. (20-3176)**

**Executive Director Eve F. Sheedy, Esq. of the Office of the Domestic Violence Council (DVC) for LAC Department of Public Health reported since COVID-19, calls to local law enforcement agencies increased only slightly. There were never massive increases of domestic violence calls as indicated in other jurisdictions. However, DVC and similar agencies received a significant increase in hotline calls and for some it doubled. Although, details beyond phone calls have been unobtainable, agencies, especially in the City of Los Angeles, have housed a larger of number of people. Also, with much gratitude there were no major COVID 19 outbreaks in the shelters.**

**Executive Director Sheedy further stated proudly she has worked closely with a broad spectrum of agencies to address everyone's specific and general needs/small and large. Originally virtual meetings were held three (3) times a week, they now meet two (2) times a week. The last meeting included a guest speaker from the National Alliance for Safe Housing to discuss national concerns.**

**Because of the pandemic, many services had been successfully launched online and has expanded public access; also, she has ideas on how to**

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provide essential services to those without access to a computer. In addition, DVCs nationwide, offer a 40-hour online domestic violence training course. Online access expanded culturally specific programs for families. Information posted at groceries stores increased calls to hotlines. Being considered, were private companies to expand outreach to chat rooms and texting services that were successful locally and nationally.

The City of Los Angeles received \$5 million in donations for safe housing shelters in hotels for everyone residing in the county and about eight (8) to ten (10) agencies signed on to provide transportation, case management, food, welcome basket, kids received electronic notebooks. Approximately 300 families; 900 people were housed and will be helped up to July 31, 2020. Those who have signed up for the program will continue to receive assistance after it expires. Lessons learned were need for long term housing for victims of domestic violence which was determined greater than earlier presumed. Permanent housing was retained for about 1/3 of the clients which was the largest number of clients ever seeking shelter which also underscores the varied needs of different populations and a broader instrument to address the needs.

In conclusion, Executive Director Sheedy reported a domestic violence ad hoc committee will meet to share experience and core issues. In addition, she informed that restraining orders can be obtained online. And that the sheriff will deliver the orders in person. She shared to be mindful of the importance to really reach and adjust our system to the needs of the public and the data hopefully collected will reveal deeper issues moving forward.

Chair Shelton thanked Executive Director Sheedy for being available today and let her know the WGI will request an update at a future meeting.

By Common Consent, there being no objection, the WGI received and filed the reports.

**5. Gender Impact Analysis (GIA) Phase 1 -Project Update (20-3177)**

Jackie Filla, Ph.D., WGI Research Consultant, conveyed that the Gender Impact Assessment timing appears to be at a critical conjunction with the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest. Governments and society have begun to reevaluate their approach to decision making and outcomes measures. The Gender Impact Assessment will be that critical component to ensuring the acclimation of a gender lens/culture in the County.

Dr. Filla's PowerPoint presentation on Phase 1 of the Gender Impact Assessment recounted the objective to uphold the three (3) guidelines for

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the County; (1) apply a gender lens to decision making internally and externally; (2) inform departments on how to set goals using a gender lens and; (3) track the gender lens over time for accountability. Since her last meeting with the WGI, the department workgroup's first meeting was held introducing the concept of gender equity and the second meeting demonstrated the individual components to produce. The department workgroups will hold two additional meetings for feedback on how a gender impact assessment would work in their department and review information from other jurisdiction about their successes.

Dr. Filla introduced the necessary supporting documents i.e. training materials, explanatory materials, tool kits for data collection and templates for data reports. Also, drafted was a specific business case document for Los Angeles County departments that addressed efficacy and usefulness of applying a gender lens for decision making. Marissa Ayala and Rachel Bryant for the Office of the CIO created a data collection survey that will provide a good indication of the progress of data collection in a subset of departments.

Dr. Filla elaborated by adding the best assessment tool will be developed by asking questions and listening to departments as well as really investing the time to teach departments how to conduct the assessment. Executive Director Land conveyed uncertainty of who will lead the assessment once the WGI sunsets however, the office of equity may be the best option. It was recommended that the Board of Supervisors will need to mandate that a gender impact assessment be conducted. She also indicated the County will have to have the gender impact assessment data to explore the development of a gender budgeting-based system.

By Common Consent, there being no objection, the WGI received and filed the reports.

## **6. WGI Ad Hoc Committees**

### **Community Engagement**

#### **II. At-Promise Girls (20-3178)**

**There were no ad hoc committee reports.**

**7. Executive Director's Report - Abbe Land (20-3179)**

**Executive Director Land acknowledged the great work of her staff and the privilege of working with the WGI Governing Council. She reported Los Angeles County (County) will face an unprecedented shortfall of \$1 billion in revenue for Fiscal Year 2019-20 due to COVID 19 and an additional loss of \$1 billion will impact Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget. The Chief Executive Office (CEO) will work with the State of California, who has also faced debt, to address the County's massive deficit. She further stated the finalized budget submissions to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) scheduled for Monday, June 29, 2020 will include cuts to programs and county staff. Departments were requested to submit budgets of 5, 10, & 15% curtailment, in addition some expiring contracts expected to continue thru next year may not get renewed.**

**Executive Director Land reported the consultant contracts the for WGI established were extended to end of September 2020. Consultants Padilla and Dr. Filla will assist in completing many of the outstanding projects by then and she assured the WGI the gender impact assessment work will continue. She was unable to convey the WGI budget for next year, but it will become available shortly. She clarified that the BOS approved the WGI's proposed budget for 5 years for a little over \$1 million annually, with the understanding that each year the CEO submits the WGI annual budget to the BOS for approval.**

**In September/October 2020, the finalized 2020-21 budget will be reviewed again and hopefully the County will obtain federal funding therefore, providing a clearer picture of the impact to the WGI. After budget approvals in June 2020, Executive Director Land will share the outcome with everyone. She also stated Proposition 209 recall will be placed on the ballot in November 2020 which will give the County a greater ability to address inequities.**

**By Common Consent, there being no objection, the WGI received and filed the reports.**

**III. MISCELLANEOUS**

- 8. Announcements (20-3180)**

**There were no announcements.**

**Public Comment**

- 9. Public Comment (20-3181)**

**Member of the public, Dr. Geneviève Clavreul, addressed the WGI.**

**By Common Consent, there being no objection, the WGI filed the reports.**

**Adjournment**

- 10. Adjourn to Monday July 27, 2020 (20-3182)**

**The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m. to Monday, July 27, 2020.**